

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1154, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

Harold F. Rehels, Director

Environmental Protection Division

404.656-2833

Site GE Brown  
1718

584741

June 10, 1998

FILE COPY

Mr. Jerry L. Brown  
Coosa River Basin Initiative  
2887 Alabama Highway  
Rome, Georgia 30165

Re: Response to Comments  
General Electric Company Hazardous Waste  
Management Facility Permit Renewal

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your participation in the Environmental Protection Division's public participation process to help reach a decision on the General Electric Company's application for a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. Your comments and those of other citizens are very helpful in EPD's effort to protect human health and the environment. After careful consideration, we have decided to issue the permit as noticed. There will be many other opportunities for the public to review and have input on clean-up activities at the General Electric site. I hope that you will continue to stay interested and participate in environmental matters of interest in your community.

In addition to the public hearing comments, your letter dated March 1997 expressed concern about the reissuance of this permit. The concerns presented in your letter and our responses are provided below:

1. *All disposal sites in our community may not have been identified.*  
The historical practices of the General Electric facility in Rome have been the subject of an ongoing investigation required by the current and proposed renewal permit. The EPD vigorously investigates allegations of illegal disposal activities. We welcome any additional information that you or anyone else in the community may have that could help in this effort.
2. *That there appears to be a significant reduction in the number of potentially hazardous compounds to be identified.*  
As listed in Permit Condition III.G.5, located on page 19 of the proposed permit, no constituents were deleted from the original list of constituents.
3. *That numerous residents in Western Floyd County are drinking water from wells and that no mechanism appears to be in place to immediately inform these citizens or potential problems.*  
Protection of human health and the environment is the goal of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Act and is clearly established as the mission of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. If EPD were to become cognizant of any "potential problems" with drinking water quality, those affected citizens would be informed of the potential problem immediately and EPD would immediately begin trying to solve the potential problems.

98-9-44

4. *Nearby quarrying operations and consequent de-watering may serve to accelerate the dispersion of contaminants in the aquifer.*

The dispersion of contaminants in the groundwater at the General Electric facility are being monitored by a network of groundwater monitoring wells located both onsite and offsite. One of the objectives of the groundwater remedial activities at the site is to control contaminant dispersion and remove the contaminants from the groundwater before it leaves the site property boundary. The EPD will continue to monitor the groundwater contamination dispersion and the effectiveness of the remedial activities.

5. *That citizens, especially youngsters, are not aware of potentially contaminated areas in their neighborhoods.*

All public notices issued by EPD are printed and broadcast in the local media, as required by state law. The EPD would welcome any additional methods that may be effective in providing notice to citizens of environmental issues. Additional information on the public participation process may be found on our Internet homepage at URL <http://www.dnr.state.ga.us/> or from EPD's Customer Assistance Program at 888-373-5947.

Since you did comment on the permit, you have certain legal rights. Specifically, you are informed of the right to be represented by legal counsel; to petition for a hearing on the changes to this permit within thirty (30) days from the date of issuance of the same; and that such permit shall become final unless a petition for a hearing is filed with the Director as set forth below within thirty (30) days from the date of issuance of the Order.

The *original and three (3) copies* of any petition for a hearing in this matter shall be filed with the Director by hand delivering same to Ms. Louise Mathis, Filing Clerk, Environmental Protection Division, 205 Butler Street, SE, Suite 1152, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, or by mailing same to the Director at the following address:

Mr. Harold F. Reheis  
Director  
Environmental Protection Division  
205 Butler Street, SE  
Suite 1152  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

ATTN: Ms. Louise Mathis  
Filing Clerk

The Petition for Hearing shall be deemed filed on the date received by the Filing Clerk of when mailed by first class mail, with proper postage attached, and properly addressed, whichever comes first.

Mr. Jerry Brown  
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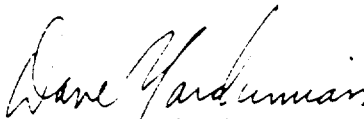
A separate copy of any Petition for Hearing shall be served on the Director's counsel of record, to wit:

Robert S. Bomar  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
132 State Judicial Building  
40 Capitol Square, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-1300

A copy of the rules governing the filing for a petition for hearing, and the procedures involved in any hearing thereon, may be found at Chapter 391-1-2 of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia published by the Georgia Secretary of State.

Again, we appreciate your participation in this process. Enclosed you will find a copy of the transcript of the public hearing for your use. Neither your letter nor your oral comments requested any specific changes to the permit as proposed, therefore, no changes to the proposed permit were made pursuant to your comments. If you have any questions regarding these matters, please contact Thomas Williams at (404) 656-2833.

Sincerely,



David Yardumian  
Unit Coordinator  
Hazardous Waste Management Branch

Enclosure

File: General Electric Co. - (Y)  
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